



## Fact Sheet:

### **The California Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors**



#### **CAADAC's Mission:**

CAADAC's mission is to unify addiction focused professionals interested in achieving excellence through the attainment of the highest levels of advocacy, competency and ethics.

#### **Uniquely Focused on Professionalism:**

The California Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, a non-profit organization, is the largest AODA counseling certification organization in California. Since 1979, CAADAC has conferred certification upon thousands of counselors who have successfully treated clients struggling with the disease of addiction. CAADAC counselors are recognized for their professional training and education in the field of alcoholism and drug abuse and are considered experts in treatment and treatment management.

CAADAC is an approved organization for the purposes of meeting certification as required by the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs.

#### **Competency based standards build quality:**

CAADAC's success as an organization lies in its strong adherence to competency based standards that are nationally and internationally recognized as benchmarks for quality. CAADAC is

the California affiliate to International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC). CAADAC meets the highest levels of quality preparation and testing of its counselors and ethical responsibilities to clients.

The IC&RC/CAADAC standards are recognized by 40,000 counselors nationally and internationally as well in most states where licensure now exists. CAADAC also is the California affiliate to the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC)

#### **Advocating for Counselors and Clients:**

CAADAC is a strong leader and advocate for the profession of AODA counseling and for the needs of addicts in California. As a co-sponsor of Proposition 36, and the sponsor of legislation to promote licensure and certification for counselors, and an invited participant to state and federal level regulatory meetings, CAADAC is a strong voice for counselors in California.

#### **Leadership from the ground up:**

CAADAC is member driven and supported by numerous academicians, counselors, treatment supervisors, educational institutions and original founders of the treatment movement. CAADAC has pledged to unify the field of AODA treatment by offering all professionals a stake in the future of the field through its "Career Ladder"

approach to career development. In a rapidly changing environment, CAADAC stands on its strong roots of supporting the individual counselor in his or her professional development yet remains flexible through continuous membership, input and active involvement in state and national affairs.

**Solid Goals for the Future:**

CAADAC continually updates its strategic plan to adjust to the changing environment in California. Following are the core values CAADAC promotes on a daily basis:

1. Promoting more effective responses to the disease of alcoholism and other drug problems.
2. Better serving those persons who suffer directly or indirectly from these problems.
3. Engaging in activities aimed at improving business conditions and elevating standards among alcoholism and drug abuse counselors in California.
4. Establishing a mechanism for state licensure/certification of qualified professional alcoholism and drug abuse counselors.
5. Establishing statewide standards for the licensure/certification of qualified alcoholism and drug abuse counselors.
6. Encouraging professional alcoholism and drug abuse counselors to meet both state and international licensure/certification standards.
7. Encouraging business, labor, industry, public and private agencies to employ only qualified professional alcoholism and drug abuse counselors.

8. Improving communication between alcoholism and drug abuse counselors and other concerned professionals.
9. State level advocacy on issues affecting the field of alcoholism and drug abuse problems with special efforts regarding the welfare of the professional alcoholism and drug abuse counselor.
10. Developing improved standards and techniques in providing alcoholism and drug abuse counseling services.
11. Providing a forum and format for continuing growth of the Association and outreach for the professional alcoholism and drug abuse counselor.

**Statewide representation:**

CAADAC holds a terrific, professional, research based Annual Conference (23 years) that offers informative and current addiction focused education and information. The Annual Conference is attended by professionals from all disciplines and treatment modalities. CAADAC approves workshops and other study courses for continuing education units.

CAADAC hosts regional activities throughout eleven regions in California where representatives are elected to express the concerns of counselors in each locality.

CAADAC is unique among certifying organizations because it represents professionals only, not programs or governmental institutions. From recovery workers to dually licensed counselors, all professionals have a voice in CAADAC.

**Membership benefits abound:**

Through effective advocacy, CAADAC members enjoy an active voice in California, National and International politics. Members are kept up-to-date through the *Freedom Newsletter* and the *CAADAC website*, [www.caadac.org](http://www.caadac.org).

A website registry is available to all certified and registered members who wish to have their name and professional distinction listed for instant employment verification and client referral.

Some of the benefits, of CAADAC members include credit union benefits, dental coverage, access to peer assistance programs, access to malpractice group insurance, and a members legislative network.

Whether just beginning a career or looking for a place to highlight years of contributions to the field, CAADAC members share a common goal of improving addiction treatment services in California and are united in this endeavor.

**For more information about CAADAC:**

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